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BEHEMOTH

- Loch Ness sightings: Here is a listing of recent cases, some already covered from different sources in previous Bilks: * On 16 June 1996, at Foyers, Kate Munro and 16 others saw a wake (Forfean Times 101, p. 18; INFO Journal 77, p. 43) * in mid-August 1996, at Invermoriston, Craig Kerr spotted a long neck with a small head and took a photo, the source for this, however, is "News of the World" (Forfean Times 101, p. 18) * Also in mid-August 1996, near Dores, Austin Hepburn took six colour photos of some movement in the water and possibly of two black humps (Forfean Times 101, p. 18) * At the end of August 1996, opposite Invermoriston, Ian Finlayson videoed a "large snake-like" creature. I can't see anything, not even the assumed wave, in the stamp-sized pix that FT prints (Forfean Times 101, p. 18) * At the end of August 1996, close to Invermoriston, Frank Wilson and two other witnesses saw a 30-40 ft object with a "flipper". Sorry, but the photo does show nothing but a boat wake, I have dozen of similar shots in my collection. Without the photo, the story sounds convincing, once you've seen the picture, it is easily solved. How many classic sightings would meet the same fate if the witnesses had taken photos? (Forfean Times 101, p. 18; Bournemouth Advertiser 19 September 1996, reprinted in Trottmann's Loch Ness Newsclipping service 3: 1) * In the first half of 1997, according to the "Official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club", there have been six sightings of the monster. (Inverness Courier, 24 June 1997, reprinted in Trottmann's Loch Ness Newsclipping service 3: 2) * On February 16, 1997, tourist Dave Shields and family saw, off Foyers, an object "like a jet-ski with a white bow wave" (Inverness Courier 18 February 1997, reprinted in LNNS 3:1) * On 21 March 1997, a South African tourist observed two humps (Inverness Courier, 24 June 1997, reprinted in Trottmann's Loch Ness Newsclipping service 3: 2) * On 22 March 1997, a local man saw and photographed "a large dark object" in Urquhart Bay (Inverness Courier, 24 June 1997, reprinted in Trottmann's Loch Ness Newsclipping service 3: 2) * On 15 April 1997 a Skye woman saw "something in the water near Foyers" (Inverness Courier, 24 June 1997, reprinted in Trottmann's Loch Ness Newsclipping service 3: 2) * On 21. June 1997 Kirk Wolfinger, while shooting a documentary about Nessie, saw (but did not film) a dark object in the water off Strone, Drumnadrochit. (Inverness Courier, 24 June 1997, reprinted in Trottmann's Loch Ness Newsclipping service 3: 2)
- Nessie expeditions: * Information on two proposed searches for the monster, see INFO Journal 77, p. 43 * According to the "Sun" (1 July 1997), Scottish forfean Malcolm Robinson send film director Steven Spielberg a proposal for identifying Nessie. It works when small spheres with tiny darts are "nailed" to Nessie's hide (she is to be lured by fish paste). Steven Spielberg is said to consider their plan, however, this could all be just a stunt for "The Lost World". (credit: Andreas Trottmann)
- Nessie trivia: In a letter from April 11, 1997, A. Trottmann told me of a pub "Loch Ness" in Swiss Freiburg. He also send me an internet page, <http://www.aiv.ethz.ch/naiv/lochness.htm>, about a student's pub with the name "Loch Ness Club".
- Rastatt: In Bilk 76 I briefly noted the case of the Rastatt crocodile. Now something similar happened on July 25, 1997, when several Rastatt citizens reported to the police that they had seen "a crocodile" in the city. Police found a 1.4m/4ft lizard in a bush. It was an emaciated iguana, and no-one knows where it came from. (RAZ, 31 July 1997, p. 4)
- o Bibliography: * Monsters in Lake Tianchi, China (INFO Journal

77, p. 43) * 60 ft, Nessie-like creature observed near Howick, Natal, South Africa, by Bob Teeny around January 1996 (INFO Journal 77, p. 43) * Monster in Rock Lake, Wisconsin, in Frank Joseph's "The Lost Pyramids of Rock Lake" (Galde Press 1992, p. 89 - 95) * The TV documentary "Rätselhafte Ungeheuer", ZDF, 25 May 1997, covered Loch Ness and Lake Champlain * On dinosaur and human coexistence: Francois de Sarre in "Challenge" (Berlin), special volume 1, pp. 81-88; 91-93

● Lake Van, Turkey: You are pardoned in case you believe that Bilk is actually done by Andreas Trottman but he sends so much material of interest and I am very thankful for this. In this case, he send me a disc of a film allegedly taken of the Lake Van monster, Turkey (as discussed in previous Bilk's). According to a CNN World News page on the internet from June 12, 1997, "a bad quality amateur picture" had been taken of the monster. "The subject (is) an obsession for the 26-year-old Unal Kozak, a Van University teaching assistant who has been talking to eye witnesses since the first sightings. (Alleged by the CNN these were two years ago, readers of Bilk know better) Stationing himself at spots where most of the sightings were reported, Kozak says he saw and filmed the ... monster on three occasions. Kozak also wrote a book on the creature, including drawings of the monster based on the descriptions of some 1,000 witnesses. He says the creature is about 15 metres long. ... The pictures have been sent to Cambridge University for examination, and Jacques Cousteau ... is expected to visit and examine the lake". As Cousteau died a few weeks ago, we have to hope the Cambridge guys find out more. CNN says that locals are divided between the opinion that the monster exists and the belief it is a hoax. Andreas comments: "It is a fascinating footage, but I have my doubts about it". The film looks too professional for an amateur filmmaker. "To me, the visible objects look rather like parts of a dinosaur out of an adventure movie." I have only one still, it shows a head and eye. Is the whole affair possibly related, as Andreas muses, to the publicity about Spielberg's new oeuvre?

ISIS

● Bibliography: Francois de Sarre: "Were aquatic pre-humans the first vertebrates to enter the land?" in: "The CFZ Yearbook" 1997, p. 142-156.

KRAKEN

● Bibliography: * "Le Bete", a two-part mini series based on Peter Benchley's giant squid novel "The Beast", was shown on French TV (France 2) on February 17 and 24, 1997. (Credit: Francois de Sarre) * Francois de Sarre also wrote an article on mysterious fish <Cryptozoologia 7 (3): 3-8; 8 (3): 3-8> in which he mentions sightings of a giant squid off Monaco and Nice, France, which frightened two anglers in the 1950s. I think I had that report from a different source when I published an article on giant cephalopods in the Mediterranean some years ago in "Pursuit".

LEVIATHAN

● Loch Nevis, Scotland: This is one item that could also well be under USO. According to a "Sun" report (June 19, 1997) reprinted by Andreas Trottman in "Loch Ness Newsclipping Service" vol. 3, No. 2 (Les Pretresses, 1586 Vallamand VD, Switzerland), Microlight flier Hamish Smith and his passenger Fr Michael Hutson spotted an "unidentified floating object" in Loch Nevis. They were at an altitude of 3000 ft when they saw something like "a sunken boat", 180 ft long and of roughly cigar shape with a blue edge. Smith took a picture (just a white streak in the water) and told police because it could also have been a crashed plane. Ministry of Defense divers searched the region and concluded it was just rocks. "The next day", said Smith, "there was nothing there. It must have

been moved". He allegedly had to turn his photos over to the MUI (so where does the one in the paper come from?) and the "Sun" assumes "they may have unwittingly spotted something far more sinister" than just rocks. Let's see how this develops. From the photo, some simple explanation such as a water disturbance appears just as likely, and I do not like conspiracy theories. Anyway, I believe Loch Nevis is way off the usual routes of nuclear submarines which have their base at the Clyde. On the other hand, the whole Loch Hourn/Loch Nevis area was a hotbed of sea serpent activity from the 1870s to the 1950s, and one of the inlets there is even called Loch na Beiste.

- Rhode Island, USA: The remains of a strange marine creature was caught by Block Island fisherman Lee Scott in June 1996. The carcass was 11.5 ft long and consisted of the head and about 95 cartilage vertebrae. Theories for its identity included a large sturgeon (this was the opinion of biologist Lisa Natanson of the National Marine Fisheries Laboratory), a deep-water eel or shark. The description is very brief, but I think a decomposed shark would fit nicely. (INFO Journal 77, p. 40)

- Caddy 1: In "Kätselhafte Ungeheuer", a ZDF TV channel documentary by Mascha Jirsa on cryptozoology, was screened on May 25, 1997, a witness of Caddy, a fisherman named Richard Smith, was interviewed. He saw Caddy off Vancouver Island, British Columbia, presumably quiet recently. Some of the interview was overdubbed, so I render the English parts and (in brackets) the parts only audible in German: "It appeared to this side of the Bay. (I turned the boat because we saw a tremendous movement in the water. As we approached, it went below the surface,) whatever it was. So I moved (the boat to the spot) and stopped. And it came up (again): two big humps moving together like this. That's all we saw, no head, no tail, (only two humps like car tyres) with a crest and big scales. (It moved) very smooth, very fast. The body was moving very fast in the water (but the humps moved only very slowly,) if you know what I mean. I think we might (have seen it for) five seconds (but very closely, about 10 feet away) and my friend said to me straight away: 'What is it?' (I said: 'I don't know' and my friend said 'Why do you steer so close to it?') Is this another of the sea serpents which move like caterpillars?"

- Caddy 2: In July 1996, Peter Gage of Saanichton saw Caddy while on the Mill Bay car ferry. Caddy was blue-gray, 18 inches thick and a foot out of water. There were two additional witnesses. (INFO Journal 77, p.44/45) Caddy is still the most active sea serpent, but as at Loch Ness, most sightings are pretty inconclusive.

- Bibliography: * Promotion review of Ellis in "Buch Aktuell", Spring 1997, p. 106 * Francois de Sarre on "Mysterieux Poissons" in "Cryptozoologia", December 1996 and January 1997, covering unknown coelacanths, giant white sharks, megamouth, sea serpent sightings in the Mediterranean, giant squids, Le Serrec's sea serpent and monstrous eels.

CRYPTOZOLOGY

- Yeti: Italian mountaineer Reinhold Messner made headlines several years ago when he claimed he had seen a yeti. Although I have quite a number of clips on that, they are highly contradictory, and his books refer to the incident only vaguely. Messner now told the Austrian news magazine "News" after returning from his recent expedition to Pakistan: "I have found the yeti. We stood eye to eye." Messner is not willing to reveal details right now, we'll have to wait for another two years when he will publish a book on yetis. However, this much can already be told: "The yeti is about 2.2m/7 ft tall, has a bright fur, it is nocturnal and eats yaks." The yeti is only aggressive when attacked. Messner has seen three yetis (on one occasion or on three separate ones is unclear), and he is convinced "that there are still about 1000 yetis". Messner

has taken a very clear and sharp photo of one of them. (Badisches Tagblatt, Badische Neue Nachrichten, Süddeutsche Zeitung, all 25 July 1997)

BOOK REVIEW

• Frank Joseph: Atlantis in Wisconsin (ISBN 1-880090-12-0, Galde Press, PO Box 460, Lakeville MN 55044, USA, \$ 14.95). This book on the "hidden pyramids" of Rock Lake in Wisconsin has much fantasy and includes to prove a highly speculative interpretation of history with the words of psychics and much extrapolation from little evidence. There may be subsurface structures there, but rewriting American history and having Europeans and Atlanteans mine copper there seems to be going a bit too far for me. (If there had large-scale European contact before Columbus, we'd have to expect similar Indian mass deaths from introduced diseases as happened in the 16th century, yet there is no evidence for this, de facto disproving all similar claims). There are annoyingly many errors, such as calling the German Atlantis researcher Jürgen Spannuth Spannuth (p. 199) or Spannuth (p. 200); the Swiss who identifies Atlantis with Troy is called Bernard Zangerer (p. 25) and Eberhard Zangerer later (p. 199), his true name is E. Zangger; Tir-nan 'og is translated as "Land beneath the sea" (p. 53) instead of "Land of Youth"; The word "scabe" is used for Maya ceremonial roads (p. 127; the correct term is "sacbe") etc. This makes one wonder how much you can rely on the other information given in the book, even excluding that retrieved by psychometry. Yet many fortana of interest for us can also be found: sea serpent traditions of Wisconsin (p. 11); Rock Lake lake monster (p. 75f); submerged cities in Europe, America and Japan (the long explained alleged stone circles in Loch Ness; the famous wooden settlements under Swiss lakes, and a complete city allegedly discovered below Scottish "Loch Ness" (sic!), probably only a distorted account of the crannog there); subsurface lake booms in Rock Lake (p. 104-105); and a "disappearing stone" that can be seen over the waters of Rock Lake from time to time (p. 145, an example of Lehn's mirage?). The most interesting thing is that the alleged prehistoric pyramids under Rock Lake behave like a lake monster: witnesses had only a short glimpse of them, they can't be photographed (camera shutter's refuse to work, as at Loch Ness) and they vanish while under observation (being hidden by algae, silt or visibility gets worse). Although the lake is full of pyramids (up to 16 structures in this tiny pond), there are only fuzzy and inconclusive photos and some sonar traces. While it is very problematic to see the book as a serious study of a most fascinating claim, the large number of fortana it contains and the parallels to the similar quest at Loch Ness (where, however, the target is moving) makes for a good read. There are similar mechanisms at work.

DINOSAURS

The lost world is approaching, and so are dinosaur news. A "sensational discovery" was made by palaeontologists in the south of Argentina. They found the skull, two molars and a 3.5m part of the vertebral column of a giant dino who died 90 million years ago. The expedition's leader from the University of Patagonia told the press the find "questioned all previous theories" as the spinal column included fossilised muscles. (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 April 97, p. 10) One would like to know what exactly is questioned, but newspapers think their readers are illiterate and leave it at hints. The "Badische Neueste Nachrichten" (14 June 97, p. 12) reported that US-scientists have found the skeleton of a tyrannosaurus rex that died ca. 65 million years ago in the east of Montana. Mary Schweitzer, University of Montana, said that traces of blood have been found on the bones. However, no genetic material has been preserved, so no Jurassic Park so far.